

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 10301 031202Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----068536 031217Z /53

O R 031115Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 3273
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
USUN NY 3410

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10301

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EFIN, EAID, CG,FR,BE,IT
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON RECOVERY EFFORT FOR ZAIRE

REF: STATE 140672, STATE 137343, 140847

1. EMBOFF CONVEYED POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL TO MFA DIRECTOR AFRICA AFFAIRS RACHELE ON JUNE 3. RACHELE WAS GRATEFUL FOR ELABORATION OF U.S. POSITION BUT OFFERED NO COMMENT BEYOND THAT OF ITALY'S CONTINUED INTEREST IN HAVING TIMELY INFORMATION ON EVOLUTION OF THIS ENTERPRISE. ACCORDING TO RACHELE THE FRENCH HAD ACTED AS THOUGH ITALIAN PARTICIPATION IN JUNE 5 MEETING HAD BEEN UNDERSTOOD. HOWEVER ITALY HAD RECEIVED NO SPECIFIC INVITATION. GOI "DECISION MAKERS" WERE ALL IN THE U.S. THIS WEEK FOR EITHER SUMMIT OR UNSSOD, RACHELE POINTED OUT. CONSULTING WITH THEM IT HAD BEEN DETERMINED THAT ITALY SHOULD NOT PRESS FOR INCLUSION IN THE TALKS. IN ANY EVENT, HE ADDED, ITALY WOULD OF COURSE PARTICIPATE IN BRUSSELS MEETINGS LATER THIS MONTH.

2. PARA 7 OF STATE 140672 WAS NOT USED IN BRIEFING RACHELE. HOWEVER WITH REFERENCE TO COMING BRUSSELS MEETING HE VOLUNTEERED
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A DESCRIPTION OF THE GOI'S ATTITUDE THAT WAS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THE U.S. POSITION. THE SUCCESS OF ANY ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM FOR ZAIRE, HE OBSERVED, WAS ENTIRELY DEPENDENT UPON THE ABILITY AND WILL OF THE GOZ TO PUT ITS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER. IN THAT REGARD A KEY ELEMENT WAS RESTORING INTERNAL SECURITY IN SHABA. THE ITAIAN AMBASSADOR IN ZAIRE HAD MADE A VISIT TO LUBUMBASHI WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS TO MAKE SOUNDINGS OF THE

TEMPER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY THERE. THE IMPRESSION HE
REPORTED TO THE MFA WAS THAT THE MOMENT EXTERNAL SECURITY FORCES
LEFT SHABA THE EUROPEANS WOULD BEGIN LINING UP AT THE AIRPORT.
EUROPEANS IN SHABA WERE STILL IN A STATE OF SHOCK. IN LU-
BUMBASHI THEY SAW OMINOURS SIGNS IN THE STAGNATION OF THE RETAIL
TRADE, WHICH, THEY INFORMED THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR DID NOT BODE
WELL. IT REVEALED THEY THOUGHT, AFRICAN EXPECTATIONS THAT "SOON
THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO GET WHAT THEY NEEDED WITHOUT PAYING
FOR IT".GARDNER

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